



Vie montante internationale Vida ascendente internacional Life ascending international

n° 78 July 2018

Private international association of the faithful, recognized by the Holy See the 25 th March 1996

Editorial

Towards the international meeting in the Dominican Republic

According to the Statutes of our Movement, the general assembly, which defines the main orientation of LAI Life Ascending International, meets every four years. As the last edition of the bulletin has already announced, this will take place in St Domingue, capital of the Dominican Republic, from 19-24 November 2018.

This will be the ninth such meeting of the LAI. You will find on page 4 the previous themes dating from the first, which took place in Rome in 1985.

As was the case for previous assemblies, it is our hope that this event at St Domingue should be warm and festive, an occasion to celebrate the joy of being together, and to affirm our identity as well as our presence in the world and the Church.

We hope also that it will be a time of reflection on the chosen theme of *'The older generation actors for evangelisation in an inter-generational and multicultural society.'*

The success of the convention depends above all on the personal investment of everyone – it is the witness accounts of each of your countries which will in fact generate the fruitfulness of the occasion, particularly via the preparatory work which you have been invited to carry out.

All member movements of LAI have been invited to attend. It would be good if the maximum possible number could participate, for we are all members of the same Movement, of which the strength and unity proceed from our common involvement in the evangelisation of today's world.

Sharing our reflections and experiences will help us to find new ways of living out the Good News as senior members of society.

We do not have the right to let our faith succumb to torpor. We do not have the right to allow ourselves to fall into error in what the Good News - with which we are entrusted - means, not only for ourselves but for all people.

Till we meet again in St Domingue.

Marta MELO ANTUNES

Peru

THE POPE'S VISIT



Words will not suffice to describe the fervour and joy felt by all Peruvians during the visit of Christ's Vicar, Pope Francis.

He has united all sorts of people - poor and rich, sick and well, and even unbelievers. His sermons and addresses were very moving, his counsels invaluable, and were always given with humility and wisdom. He revealed himself to be a person of extraordinary modesty while being at the same time impressive in his preaching.

The three places visited were strategically chosen. Firstly a jungle area in the region of Madre de Dios, where he addressed the problems related to the environment; children, trafficking, the exploitation of minors, deforestation and the abuse of indigenous peoples.

In the town of Trujillo and in Lima, the Peru's capital, the Holy Father told the young: 'In my work as bishop I have come across many good ideas originating in the hearts and spirits of young people and I advised them to mature their dreams with the aid and advice of their elders' ' Grandparents and older people, do not fail to transmit to the young your people's roots, and the acquired wisdom that is the way that leads to heaven'

'I invite you to be unafraid to be the saints of the 21st century'

When he addressed the bishops of Lima, he evoked the work of Sant Toribio of Mogrovejo as a 'builder of Church unity'. He called to mind his work of evan-

gelisation for the sake of his faith and his trust in the Lord.

'Dear brother Bishops, work for unity and not stay prisoners of the divisions which paralyse and diminish the vocation to which we are called. This must remain: the calling to be the sacrament of communion. Never forget that what attracted people to the primitive Church was to see how the believers loved one another. That was, and will always be, the best kind of evangelisation''

During the last address at the Holy Mass at Palmas we were moved by his words concerning those 'without the necessary conditions for a decent life'. 'A society which is incapable of accepting those who suffer and incapable of offering compassionate help is a society which is cruel and inhumane'

'Jesus is among us, let us let us encourage each other in tenderness and compassion; he invites us to walk with him in town and to become a missionary-disciple. Rejoice! the Lord is with you!'

What marvellous words; they help us to reflect and to act so that we may be more effective in this life.

Let us pray for Pope Francis, asking God that he may remain in good health and shine for many years to come, so that those changes which are necessary in the Catholic Church of today may come to pass.

From Goyita SAN MARTIN DE BOYD

France

THE THIRD RETIREMENT

WORLD DAYS AT LOURDES



Participants of the round table "living together" and the association "coexister"

We have been fortunate enough to take part in the third edition of the Retirement World Days organised by the French movement MCR which took place 19-21 June.

This was a huge success measured as much by the level of participation (more than 4000 members and friends) as by its organisation, and in particular by the quality of the discussions.

The subject **'What challenges face the world?'** was the opening theme and accorded with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, which served as a thematic thread for the ensuing round table discussions between experts on the following challenges:

Living together : how do the three monotheistic religions view the challenges facing us?

Family : how can today's complex families remain a place where values are transmitted?

Health : growing older, yes, but under what circumstances? How far should we go in repairing the body?

Ecology : how can the raised awareness of an endangered planet modify our behaviour and encourage renewed hope?

Each time, we were able to benefit from excellent addresses, as demonstrated by the remarkable synthesis given on the third day by our friend Rene Poujol (who had previously given us the benefit of an extraordinary panorama, based on the preparatory work done during the International Assembly of the LAI in Namur in 2014)

Due to lack of space we have selected only brief extracts from the first debate, as it touched on inter-religious links and inter-convictions aspects which could be useful during our meeting in Saint Domingue which will be devoted to evangelisation in today's world.

LIVING TOGETHER

This discussion brought together a rabbi (Yann Bossiere), a catholic priest (Christian Delorme), and an

imam (Tarek Oubrou). This proved to be a great example of inter-religious dialogue, where one could see the various points of convergence between people of goodwill, as demonstrated by the following extracts.

- The reality with which we are confronted is that of the presence of Christianity, of Judaism, of Buddhism, but too and perhaps even more importantly ,of religious indifference and of atheism.
- The circumstances of the encounter and of the dialogue concern the relationship between the religions themselves, but also agnostics and atheists.
- Diversity is wealth, it is not a sign of regression but of enrichment. 'God wills diversity' (Tarek Oubrou)
- We should give place to the other who has something to give us: his difference enriches us. We should be comfortable within our own tradition, while at the same time being open to the truths held by the other.
- The three speakers plead with us not to enclose God within our own ideas of Truth.

Following this debate, it was the turn of the organisation 'Coexister'. This association, present in several European countries, brings together young Christians, Jews, Muslims and atheists. It works 'to come together in solidarity with, and to work to serve, the most poverty stricken, rather than to agree on theological approaches.'

Is not this initiative one way of translating into action the Word of God, for 'all Christians are called to involve themselves in working for a better world' (Evangeli Gaudium no 183)?

Jean-Michel Simeon

NB We recommend that you consult the MCR site: <https://mcr.asso.fr/journees-du-monde-de-la-retraite/> where you can find videos of these round table discussions, photos and the synthesis made by Rene Poujol (with even the possibility of downloading it!)

ABOUT OUR INTERNET SITES

Our global internet site is currently in the process of being reorganised under the aegis of the executive committee and its webmaster Christian Leibenguth (Belgium). The revised site should be available **from this August** in order to convey the maximum of information during the international meeting in the Dominican Republic. It will be accessible at the above **new address**:

<https://vmi-vai-lai.org>

It will continue to be sent out in three languages - French, English and Spanish, and will comprise the usual headings: Current events - Who are we? - Organisation - Newsletter - LAI booklet - News from the continents - Contacts.

Otherwise, members **of the European Coordination** under the direction of Monique Ptak and Christian Leibenguth (also responsible for the global VMI – LAI site) have already initiated a specific site at the address :

<https://vmi-vai-lai.eu>

This contains similar headings to the main site but has a specific News section that gives information about the



European branches and supplies a link to the national sites. (It would be desirable, as far as is possible, for other continents to adopt similar procedures.)

Either way the objective is to improve coordination between continents and to permit all members of LAI and their sympathisers world-wide, to pass easily between the general site and those of the nation-specific, and vice versa.

For that to take place, it requires in the future that each country establish links with the VMI general site and with the continental ones, and in addition be ready to pass on important information. Naturally, this requires some effort, but it will facilitate a closer acquaintance one with another and will raise our profile with the outside world.

J-M and CL

NEWS

IVORY COAST

Following the death of our President Joseph Allah Kouame in 2013 and that of President Felix Iro in 2015, a team took over responsibility and the groups have continued their activities. A General Assembly for the purpose of elections took place in the parish of St Cecile du Vallon des 2 Plateaux in Abidjan. The Elder Felix Kayossi was elected President Vie Montante Ivory Coast, for the next three years. The objectives of the new committee are, among others, to build a dynamic and well organised group, the extension of the movement into all dioceses, to maintain a special relationship with world VMI/LAI organisation and to offer better training for group leaders.

A request has been made to Radio Espoir (Hope Radio) for the promotion of Vie Montante Ivory Coast and also to the newsletter 'Echos from the Parish of St Cecile' for a dedicated space for the group.

Felix KAYOSSI

Dates and themes of our previous INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

1985 ROME (Italy)

Elderly people, witnesses and apostles of hope

1989 PANAMA (Rep of Panama)

For a life lived freely and to the full

1994 MIAMI (USA)

VMI at the dawn of the third millennium

1998 DAKAR (Senegal)

The charisms of the elderly... riches to share

2002 BANGKOK (Thailand)

VMI in the pastoral care of the elderly

2006 LOURDES (France)

The elderly, a sign of hope for today's world

2010 CAP DE LA MADELEINE (Canada)

Witnesses for a world in crisis

2014 NAMUR (Belgium)

The elderly in a changing world :
challenges and opportunities